

America's FUTURE

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FACTS ON THE PEACE CORPS

The manner in which the President has generated enthusiasm for his Peace Corps, which he set up with a stroke of his executive pen, must be the envy of all public relations experts. In a way, this is a tribute to the American people. They often go overboard for what looks like an inspiring program out of the sheer goodness of their hearts.

The idea behind the Peace Corps is to send a batch of supposedly unpaid and volunteer young Americans to out-of-the-way, underdeveloped

areas of the world to show their people how to get developed. We do not enjoy dampening the enthusiasm, but there are several hard facts about this notion which we had better consider carefully.

First, to clear up its genesis, Walter Trohan of the *Chicago Tribune* revealed that the idea is not original with the President. It was first proposed by a shoe manufacturer named Heinz W. Rollman. In fact former President Eisenhower also suggested the idea and later called on Mr. Ken-

nedy to acknowledge that its originator was Rollman. The President has never done so.

Second, contrary to popular belief that the Corps will be made up of unpaid volunteers, its members will get a monthly allowance plus food and housing. It is estimated that the cost per member will run about \$10,000 or \$12,000 a year. For 5000 members the total cost to you, the American taxpayer, will be around 60 million dollars a year -as a starter.

Third, what kind of young people will volunteer for the Peace Corps, and what sort of ill-will may they build up for America in trying to impose their half-baked ideas on other peoples? Ruth Montgomery, a very observant Washington correspondent, asks: 'Will they not be largely confined to the adventure seekers who want a

free trip overseas? Or to the non-conformists who fit nowhere? Or to the zealots who want to make over the world against its will?"

Fourth, and most important, what are we getting into? Already there are suggestions for a peace corps here in America - for starry-eyed young bureaucratic busybodies sticking their noses into various areas here at home. But what happens when the enthusiasm wears off, when there are not enough volunteers? The next step is the logical one - conscription of youth by the government, with the ideological and political control that goes with it. What, then, will be the difference between Mr. Kennedy's beautiful Peace Corps and the Hitler Youth Corps of Nazi Germany, or the Young Communist League of Soviet Russia?

ANOTHER BOONDOGGLE?

The more this Peace Corps idea is analyzed, the more it looks like another government boondoggle. Since the end of World War II, close to 80 billion dollars of your money has been poured out in an effort to buy the love and friendship of peoples all over the world. These foreign

handouts are administered by armies of bureaucrats who are supposed to know what they are doing. Here and there, a rare individual undoubtedly has performed a service for the United States in the way he handled the foreign peoples with whom he dealt. But by and large, the colossal num-

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ber of 'goofs' perpetrated by the bureaucratic mind in foreign lands would fill several volumes. One example, which took place in the Philippines some years ago, still brings laughs at our expense from the essentially friendly Filipinos. One of our foreign-aid do-gooders got the bright idea of building nearly 600 bathrooms on some land in Manila. He thought the Filipinos would be so happy with American plumbing that he offered a bathroom free to anyone who would build a nice little home next to each bathroom. Nobody took him up on the offer. The bathrooms stood idle and finally began to rust away. The Filipinos

just laughed — and dubbed the project 'Privyville, U.S.A.'

Or take, for instance, President Kennedy's Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr. Soapy Williams. Soapy is no callow college youth. He is a former governor of Michigan. Nevertheless, on his recent tour of Africa (as everyone knows who reads the newspapers) he managed to put his foot in his mouth practically every time he opened it.

What right have we to expect that a Peace Corps of inexperienced, eager but half-baked young missionaries will do any better, particularly when they operate out of the snarls of bureaucratic red-tape in a government agency? Actually, what we need is not still another bureau in Washington with the fancy name of Peace Corps, but a thorough housecleaning of all the current departments and bureaus.

FACELESS BUREAUCRATS

A serious aspect of Big Government that is often overlooked is the power for mischief which is lodged in these unwieldy bureaus. Americans have a notion that if a President names a competent head of the State or Commerce or some other department, and

he in turn names experienced and able men as his immediate assistants, everything will be all right. But these government departments and bureaus have grown so big and complex that often we are at the mercy of what might be called the third or fourth echelons - the faceless and nameless bureaucrats over whom the voters have no control.

For example, the United States has always been able to depend on our big Latin American neighbor Brazil, to back up American foreign policy. But you may have noticed that the new President of Brazil seems not quite so friendly. He is re-establishing relations with Red nations, and talks about supporting Red China's admission to the United Nations, which is contrary to the announced policy of the United States.

Now it may be only the long arm of coincidence, but it is just possible that Brazil's feelings about us began to change some years ago because of the action of one of these faceless third-echelon bureaucrats. Mr. William D. Pawley, testifying before the Senate Internal Security Committee, told of an incident which occurred while he was our Ambassador to Brazil. Re-

lations with Brazil were splendid. Her government always acceded to any requests we made. Then one day the President of Brazil told Mr. Pawley he had bought some wheat in the U.S. for the Brazilian army. He needed an export license to get the wheat from New Orleans to Brazil. Our Ambassador immediately got the approval of the President, the Secretaries of Treasury, Agriculture and Commerce. But the license was never issued and Brazil never got the wheat. It was finally sold in New Orleans at a \$75,000-loss to Brazil. When Mr. Pawley got back to Washington he found there were some junior bureaucrats in the various departments who decided what they thought was good or not good for the United States. Evidently they could make their decisions stick long enough to counteract top-level decisions. Can you imagine what that incident did to good relations with Brazil?

A recent incident is even more revealing. It involved the approval by the Commerce Department of a shipment of strategic machine tools to Soviet Russia. The Secretary of Commerce stopped the shipment which had been approved

by somebody in his Department, but only after Senator Thomas Dodd had raised the roof about it. But obviously senators cannot be expected to scrutinize every decision coming out of a government bureau. It would be impossible to do so. It is even impossible for the head of each department or bureau to do so because the bureaus have grown too numerous and too big. This makes them a happy hunting ground for the do-

gooder, the pro-communist, the world remodeler, the know-it-all. These faceless bureaucrats, who were never elected to anything, then proceed to make decisions for 170 million Americans. The only solution to this problem is to reduce government to manageable size so that elected and appointed officials are responsible for every move made in the name of the American people.

Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 3/19/61

ONLY THE SIGH AND THE COFFIN

(Because of its special significance at this particular time of the year, we print below an account of the average day of a mythical, but nonetheless very real American, prepared by the Tax Foundation, Inc.)

Henry Suburban reached out at 7 o'clock of a wintry morning to turn off the alarm clock (price: \$5; tax, 50¢). He pushes down the electric blanket (price: \$28; tax, 84¢), climbs sleepily out of bed. He walks across the bedroom floor of his house (price: \$12,000; annual property tax, \$209) and switches on the electricity, lighting a bulb (price: 33¢; tax, 2¢).

To music from a bedroom

radio (price: \$30; tax, \$1.80) Henry shaves with his electric razor (see above). As a radio newscaster reports that Henry's state is preparing to increase income taxes and impose a general sales tax on everything anyone buys, Henry slaps a handful of bay rum (price: \$1.30; tax, 13¢), across his jowls.

He dresses quickly, hurriedly fastening cuff links (price: \$5; tax, 50¢) and tie

clasp (price: \$3; tax, 30¢), puts on his Swiss wrist watch (price: \$60; tax, \$6), and rushes downstairs. Tucked under one arm is a leather briefcase (price: \$25; tax, \$2.50) which carries papers from his real estate office, including one deed (property valued at \$3000; stamp tax, \$3.30). In the kitchen he's just in time to snatch two slices of bread (at least 15¢ hidden taxes) from the electric toaster, (price: \$16; tax, 48¢), lift his coffee from the gas stove (price: \$190; tax, \$5.70), and grab a glass of fruit juice from the refrigerator (price: \$300; tax, \$9).

A glance out the window shows it's begun to snow, so he calls to his wife (marriage license: \$2) to telephone (monthly telephone bill: \$12; tax, \$1.20) for a taxi. Too many other people want taxis on a snowy morning so Henry gets out his own car (price: \$2500; total taxes, \$518) and drives (operator's license: \$3) to the railroad station.

Henry relaxes at the station with a cigarette (price per

pack: 13¢; tax, 15¢), lit by a match (tax: 2¢ per 1000). Aboard the train, he settles down to a hand of bridge with three cronies, using, of course, a deck of cards (price: 40¢; tax, 13¢).

In the city on his way to the office, Henry stops to buy a roll of camera film (price: 40¢; tax, 2¢) that he promised his son (registration of birth: \$1), and the lipstick (price: \$1; tax, 10¢) he promised his wife. Because there are friends coming to Henry's house in the evening, he buys a bottle of whiskey (price: \$3.40; tax, \$2.10).

Arriving eventually at the office, Henry sighs (no tax) and settles to a day's work (annual income: \$7500; federal and state income taxes, \$986). If he works hard for the rest of his life, he will be able to provide the government with a handsome slice of inheritance tax. And if he dies in a state that is fiscally tolerant, he can take comfort in the thought that his casket -provided it costs less than \$100 - will be exempt from any sales tax.

*"LOST: U. S. Constitution. Finder
please return to American people.
Reward - Freedom."*

(Manion Forum)

LATE AFTERNOON

"Government out of control poses a great menace to our freedom. We have been spendthrift with our yesterdays, and now we must face the fact that there can be no security anywhere if we do not establish fiscal and economic stability in the United States.

"In all the ages of history there have been, relatively speaking, but a few moments of freedom. Most of those moments have been ours. All of them have occurred in a capitalistic system. Our freedom grows out of our personal enterprise system, and that system is endangered by profligate government. It is now late in the afternoon of the day of decision."

- Oakland (Md.) REPUBLICAN

BETTER THAN EVER

"It was at the multi-million-dollar United States Embassy building in Stockholm, Sweden. They were having a small cocktail party...As I joined a group of a dozen or so standing in a circle, one of our Embassy employees glibly expounded: 'This ain't bad duty now that McCarthy is dead.' Quick as you could say Alger Hiss or Phillip Jessup, I politely inquired: 'How've all you pinks, punks and perverts been getting along since the Senator passed away?' Uninsult-

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ed, he answered: 'There are just as many of us and we're getting along better than ever.'"

- Tom Anderson in
FARM & RANCH MAGAZINE

INSEPARABLE COMPANION

"Let's don't kid ourselves into thinking that the states can get federal funds for schools...without having Washington bureaucrats and an army of federal snoops breathing down our necks. We can't think of a federal grant that hasn't had federal dictation as its inseparable companion."

- Barnesville (O.) ENTERPRISE

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